

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 3, 5, 7 to 14, 17 and 19 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and amend Claims 1, 2, 4, 15, 16, 18, 20 and 22 as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus arranged to connect, via a network, to ~~a plurality of~~ at least a first external services service and a second external service, each of which provides a service for processing image data generated in the image reading apparatus, the image reading apparatus comprising:

an image reading unit configured to read an image on an original document and generate digital image data corresponding to the read image;

an input unit configured to input a first password for an operator of the image reading apparatus;

an ~~identification~~ authentication unit configured to ~~identify an~~ authenticate ~~the operator of the image reading apparatus~~ based on the first password input by the input unit;

an acquiring unit configured to acquire, when the authentication by the authentication unit succeeds, personalized service information which is associated with ~~an~~ a first ID of the identified the authenticated operator, the personalized service information including ~~plural items of~~ at least first setting information which contains a second ID and a second password for each of the plurality of the first external services service, and second setting information which contains a third ID and a third password for the second external service;

a personalizing unit configured to personalize a setting screen,~~a setting procedure, and contents of settings~~ according to the acquired personalized service information; and

a transmitting unit configured to transmit various settings which have been set based on the personalized setting screen, setting procedure, and contents of the settings personalized by said personalizing unit, together with the second ID, the second password, and the generated digital image data ~~via the network to one of the plurality of external services which~~ to the first external service in a case where the first external service is selected by the identified operator, and to transmit various settings which have been set based on the personalized setting screen, the third ID, the third password, and the generated digital image data to the second external service in a case where the second external service is selected.

2. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the acquiring unit acquires the personalized service information from a detachable storage medium further comprising:

a reading unit configured to read operator identification information and the personalized service information corresponding to the operator from a detachable storage medium connected with the reading unit,

wherein said identification unit identifies the operator according to the operator identification information read from the storage medium.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein an external server holding the personalized service information associated with respective operator ~~identification information~~ is connected to the network, and ~~said the~~ acquiring unit transmits ~~operator identification information of the operator identified by the identification unit~~ the first ID to the external server via the network, and acquires the personalized service information corresponding to the transmitted ~~operator identification information~~ first ID from the external server.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) An image reading apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the plurality of external services exist on the Internet, and the external server exists on an intranet.

7. to 14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus according to claim ~~14~~1, wherein the personalized service information includes information indicative of an address ~~of the identified operator as the address~~ for delivery.

16. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus according to claim ~~14~~1, wherein the personalized service information includes information indicative of ~~the identified operator as~~ a person to be charged for the service.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein ~~said the~~ the acquiring unit acquires plural pieces of personalized service information, and ~~said the~~ the personalizing unit comprises selecting means for selecting a desired service from among services personalized for the ~~identified~~ authenticated operator according to the acquired plural pieces of personalized service information.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) A personalizing method for an image reading apparatus arranged to connect, via a network, to ~~a plurality of~~ at least a first external ~~services~~ service and a second external service, each of which provides a service for processing image data generated in the image reading apparatus, the personalizing method comprising:

an image reading step of reading an image on an original document and generating digital image data corresponding to the read image;

an input step of inputting a first password for an operator of the image reading apparatus;

an ~~identification~~ authentication step of ~~identifying an~~ authenticating the operator of the image reading apparatus based on the first password input in the input step;

an acquiring step of acquiring, when the authentication in the authentication step succeeds, personalized service information which is associated with ~~an~~ a first ID of ~~the~~

~~identified the authenticated operator, the personalized service information including plural items of at least first setting information which contains a second ID and a second password for each of the plurality of the first external services service, and second setting information which contains a third ID and a third password for the second external service;~~

~~a personalizing step of personalizing a setting screen, a setting procedure, and contents of settings according to the acquired personalized service information; and~~

~~a transmitting step of transmitting various settings which have been set based on the personalized setting screen, setting procedure, and contents of the settings personalized according to the acquired personalized service information acquired in said personalizing step, together with the second ID, the second password, and the generated digital image data via the network to one of the plurality of external services which to the first external service in a case where the first external service is selected by the identified operator, and to transmit various settings which have been set based on the personalized setting screen, the third ID, the third password, and the generated digital image data to the second external service in a case where the second external service is selected.~~

21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) A non-transitory computer-readable storage medium storing a computer program for controlling an image reading apparatus arranged to connect, via a network, to ~~a plurality of at least a first external services service and a second external service~~, each of which provides a service for processing image data

generated in the image reading apparatus, the computer program comprising program codes for performing:

an image reading step of reading an image on an original document and generating digital image data corresponding to the read image;

an input step of inputting a first password for an operator of the image reading apparatus;

~~an identification~~ authentication step of ~~identifying an~~ authenticating the operator of the image reading apparatus based on the first password input in the input step;

an acquiring step of acquiring, when the authentication in the authentication step succeeds, personalized service information which is associated with ~~an~~ a first ID of the ~~identified~~ the authenticated operator, the personalized service information including ~~plural items of~~ at least first setting information which contains a second ID and a second password for each of the plurality of the first external services service and second setting information which contains a third ID and a third password for the second external service;

a personalizing step of personalizing a setting screen, ~~a setting procedure,~~ and contents of settings according to the acquired personalized service information; and

a transmitting step of transmitting various settings which have been set based on the personalized setting screen, ~~setting procedure, and contents of the settings~~ personalized in said personalizing step, together with the second ID, the second password, and the generated digital image data via the network to one of the plurality of external service to the first external service in a case where the first external service is selected by the identified operator, and to transmit various settings which have been set based on the personalized setting screen, the third ID, the third password, and the generated digital

image data to the second external service in a case where the second external service is selected.